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P R E F A C E.

THE views of the Society instituted at London, for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, extend, independent of their domestic regulations, to general improvements in Agriculture, Chemistry, Polite and Liberal Arts, Manufactures, Mechanics, and the products of our Colonies. On examining the Communications which compose the present Volume, it will be found that the Society have been occupied, during the last Session, in each of the above-mentioned Departments; and it is hoped the Public will derive useful information from each distinct Class.

Before a regular detail is entered into of the numerous Articles of which this

Volume is composed, it may not be deemed improper to pay a tribute to the memory of the late Owen Salusbury Brereton, Esq. by inserting the following particulars of his life, communicated by the late John Holliday, Esq. F. R. S. O. S. Brereton, Esq. whose portrait is annexed to the Frontispiece, long took a lively and active part in the concerns of the Society, as one of their Vice-Presidents. He was the son of Thomas Brereton, Esq. of the County Palatine of Chester, and was born in the year 1715: he received his education partly at Westminster School on the foundation, partly at Trinity College, Cambridge; and, on the death of his father, inherited the ancient family-estates, in the above-mentioned county, and in Flintshire.

In 1738 Mr. Brereton was called to the Bar, and in 1746 became Recorder of the great and flourishing town of Liverpool; which office he filled with
great

Mr. Brereton became a Member of the Society of Arts so early as 1762; and by his assiduity, zeal, and order, filled the distinguished office of Vice-President with great credit to himself and advantage to the Society, from March 1765 till his last illness in 1798. He was also an early Member of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies. The *Archæologia* of the latter, contains his Observations on Peter Collinson's Account of the Round Towers in Ireland;* his Tour through South Wales;† his Extracts from the Household Book of Henry VIII;‡ his Account of a painted window in Brereton Church, Cheshire;§

* *Archaeol.* ii. 80. † *Id.* iii. 3. ‡ *Id.* iii. 154.
§ *Id.* ix. 368.

and that of a non-descript Coin, supposed to be Philip VI of France.* Mr. Pennant has also, in his Welsh Tour, described and given an engraving of several Roman Antiquities, found by his horse accidentally disturbing them, at a Roman station called Croes Atti, on his estate in Flintshire.†

Mr. Brereton was a Bencher of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's-Inn, filled the office of Treasurer, and was Keeper of the Black-Book. He also represented the borough of Ilchester in Parliament. He took the name of Salisbury with an estate, and became Constable of the Castle of Flint, a valuable privilege to his adjacent possessions. His domestic happiness was manifest to his numerous and respectable acquaintance, among whom were some of the most learned men of the age,

Mr,

* Archæol. x. 463.

† Pennant's Tour, Vol. i. p. 52, 54, 67, 73.

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Mr. Brereton died on the 8th of September, 1798, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, and was interred in St. George's Chapel, Windsor. His wife was sister of Sir Thomas Whitmore, K.B. Mr. Brereton lived happily with her more than fifty years. They had five children, who all died young; he bequeathed the rents of his estates to her during her life, and after her decease (which happened in 1799), to his relations; the only son of the late General Trelawney, of Soho-Square, and the second son of the Rev. Sir Harry Trelawney, Baronet, of Trelawne, in Cornwall.

The Premiums usually proposed by the Society have, during this Session, undergone a minute investigation: several are discontinued; and many, relative to objects in Planting, Husbandry, &c. offered, for some succeeding years, in the last Volume of Transactions, still remain open to Claimants, until the

times there noted are expired, though not particularised in the present Volume.

Modifications of them, or other Premiums expected to answer the purpose better, will probably succeed them, as occasion may require.

New Premiums will be found introduced, under the Articles *Comparative Tillage; Rotation of Crops; Preserving of Turnips, Cabbages, Carrots, Parsnips, Beets, and Potatoes; inventing Thrashing-Machines; manufacturing Tallow-Candles; Preparation of Tan; Preparations of Red and Green Colours for printing on Cotton-Cloth; artificial Ultramarine; Stroke Engravings; Chintz and Copper-Plate Designs for Calico-Printers; Engravings on Wood; Bronzes; improved Ventilation; Cultivation of Hemp in Canada, and curing Herrings in the Dutch method.*

The Society will attend to any informations respecting such matters, as may be proper objects for further Premiums;
and

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and invite the Public to furnish them with such Communications, addressed to the Secretary.

On perusal of the present Volume, it will be seen that a long detail of Certificates, which formed a considerable part of the former Volumes, has been contracted, in order to admit a greater number of subjects; by which means the present Volume contains twelve more articles of intelligence than any preceding one, all of which it is hoped will be found interesting to the Public.

The Papers and Communications are disposed in the order heretofore observed; a few remarks are here made, in addition to the Accounts introduced, as they follow in rotation.

In the Class of Agriculture it will be found that Henry Vernon, Esq. of Hilton Park, amongst a variety of other Trees, disposed with much taste and judgment, has planted a great number of English Elms, which are likely to form

form good timber. From subsequent accounts we have been informed, that the whole of his plantations are flourishing and picturesque.

The variety of uses to which Osiers are applied, renders their culture desirable. Mr. Thomas Selby, of Otford Castle, in Kent, has made very considerable plantations of them, and much improved Land which was naturally wet and barren.

The very extensive plantations of Timber-Trees, by Thomas Johnes, Esq. of Hafod, in Cardiganshire, demand particular attention. This Gentleman, by his excellent discrimination, and by exertions perhaps unparalleled, has converted a Desert to a Paradise ; and in a wild uncultivated part of Wales, has raised such enchanting scenes, as afford inexpressible pleasure to every spectator. Mr. George Cumberland, whose taste and judgment have been displayed in several publications, made the following observations

observations on seeing Hafod, in the year 1796. “ So many are the delights afforded by the scenery of this place and its vicinity, to a mind imbued with any taste, that the impression on mine was increased after an interval of ten years from the first visit, employed chiefly in travelling among the Alps, the Appennines, the Sabine-Hills, the Tyrolese, along the shores of the Adriatic, over the Glaciers of Switzerland, and up the Rhine, where, though in search of beauty, I never saw any thing so fine; never so many pictures collected in one point of view.”

Every person will feel a pleasure on being informed that, since the above description, very considerable improvements have been made there, particularly very lately, in the farms; that the additions in this line, and fertilizing Waste Ground, take place every year; that the number of Trees planted on
Hafod

Hafod estate, between October 1795 and April 1801, amount to 2,065,000, of which 1,200,000 are Larches; that, besides the above Trees, fifty-five acres of land have been sown with Acorns, or planted with Oaks; that Mr. Johnes is still extending his plantations, and greatly improving the scenery of his estate. We are told, that the Cheese sold by him the last season, amounted to four tons, and his Butter 1200lbs. He expects his Dairy will furnish him, during the next year, ten tons of Cheese for sale. Mr. Johnes has been indefatigable in his pursuits in Agriculture; and has not only shown, by practice, what may be done, but in a late ingenious Publication, presented to this Society, entitled "A Cardiganshire Landlord's Advice to his Tenants," pointed out to others the means of doing it.

In a climate so variable as that of Great-Britain, it is of importance to know how to counteract the disadvantages

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tages arising from unfavourable autumnal seasons. The Account given by Mr. Brown, of Markle, in Scotland, of the Wheat sown by him in the spring of 1800, and the valuable crop housed the same year, is well deserving attention.

As similar disadvantages of climate attend the housing of Crops when ripe, the method of making Clover-Hay in Courland, communicated by Mr. John Taylor, opens to this country a new line of management for this purpose, which bids fair to be of great utility. The process of vegetable fermentation, in the preparation of Hay, has been hitherto little attended to or understood: the consequence of neglect in this point, has occasioned many stacks of Hay to take fire and be destroyed; which loss the method here recommended may probably prevent.

Mr. Palmer's method of Housing Corn in Wet Weather, as mentioned in the present Volume, appears to be scarcely known

known in England, but has been successfully practised in Fifeshire, and other parts of Scotland. The more general introduction of Thrashing-Machines, has been the means of preventing the loss of many crops of Corn in Great-Britain, by affording quick dispatch to the separation of the Corn from the wet sheaf in bad seasons, and (as is proved by Mr. Palmer's experiments) without injuring the quality of the grain.

Immense tracts of Land lie uncultivated in different parts of Great-Britain. As such Land, when once improved, seldom recurs to its original barren state, it shows that every improvement of this kind is a source of permanent wealth to the Nation. In few parts of England is the land naturally worse than in the County of Lancaster, or more valuable when improved. In that county, Mr. Fogg, of Bolton in the Moors, has undertaken, with great spirit and judgment, the improvement of a part of a large tract
of

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of Waste Land lately inclosed, and has succeeded in the trial with honour and advantage. There is great probability of his example exciting a noble spirit of emulation, for similar agricultural exertions in that neighbourhood. He has also furnished some hints on the propagation of Potatoes, and on the means of preventing a wasteful expenditure of that useful food.

The long continuance of water upon land during the winter season, is perhaps one of the greatest mischiefs that can befall it, and ought most carefully to be guarded against; this has occasioned the adoption of a variety of modes for its removal:—viz. open or covered Drains, made by the spade; Pipe or Tube Drains, made under the surface by Mr. Scott's Mole-Plough; the triangular Indent, ingeniously contrived by Mr. Middleton, as noticed in the Commercial and Agricultural Magazine, and performed by a cart-wheel,
prepared

prepared for the purpose, which presses down the grass sod, and, without destroying the grass, furnishes, by the indent which it makes, a passage for the stagnant water. Each of the above methods may have advantages in particular situations, but probably none of them is more generally useful than the Drain-Plough, of which a Model was this Session presented to the Society by his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater: it performs the operation of Surface-Draining with neatness, ease, and celerity; destroys but little herbage, and furnishes, at a trifling expence, in the following spring, an excellent compost for a top-dressing.

The Drill Husbandry continues to gain advocates; and repeated experiments confirm its advantages.

The Public are under great obligations to Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. of Ludlow, for a Drill Machine for sowing Turnips and other seeds, presented by him

him to the Society. This very ingenious and useful implement possesses the powers of making an indent or furrow for the seed; of depositing the seed within that channel, and covering it instantaneously in a more effectual manner than can be done by the harrow or rake. Its construction is simple and cheap; and it can be expeditiously worked, on any soil, by a man or boy.

The Society are much indebted to the same Gentleman for some very accurate Observations upon the Nature of Blight, the destructive effects of the Aphis, and the means of obviating the sudden changes to which our climate is subjected, and by which Vegetation is impeded.

Mr. Lester, of Northampton, has introduced an implement, named a Cultivator, which, from its powers of contraction and expansion, may probably be very useful in working rough fallows after ploughed crops, and reducing the

soil to a greater degree of pulverization than can be effected by repeated ploughings and harrowings in the common method.

The advantages of the Drill over the Broad-cast husbandry, in the culture of Turnips, is further elucidated by the Rev. T. C. Munnings, whose paper upon that subject points out a number of minutiae apparently necessary to the success of the crop; amongst which it is particularly recommended to cover the seed with earth instantly when sown. The method which he suggests for the preservation of Turnips on the land, by means of ploughed ridges, as food for cattle during the winter season, claims public attention. Mr. Munnings has presented the Society with his Drill-Machine for sowing Seed.

Mr. Eccleston, of Scarisbrick, who has for many years been very attentive to Agricultural pursuits, has obliged the Society this Session by his Observations

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on a method of Draining Boggy Land ; and presented an implement which forms an outlet for water when retained in peat-earth, by the spongy texture of the vegetable surface growing within the ditches.

It was an observation of the celebrated Swift, that “ whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow, where only one had grown before, would deserve better of mankind than the whole race of politicians.” The same remark may be extended, with propriety, to other vegetable products ; and the merit acknowledged of Mr. Ashton, of Woolton Hall, who has lately converted one hundred and thirty-three acres of waste sandy land, unproductive of herbage, to a valuable plantation of Timber-trees, the flourishing state of which affords great encouragement for thus employing land apparently barren.

Mr. Edward Jones's Paper on the Destruction of the Grub of the Cockchaffer, contains curious observations on the habits of Moles; and points out the necessity of a cool and candid consideration upon the alternative choice of permitting the increase of Moles, or of suffering from the ravages of the Cockchaffer, worms, and other noxious insects.

The preparation and application of Composts for Manure are of very essential consequence in husbandry; and a knowledge of the modes adapted for such purpose in different parts of Great Britain, is of the utmost importance. Great exertions are necessary to eradicate the topical prejudices on this head which are known to prevail throughout the kingdom, and to encourage methods more efficient for the purpose. In the isle of Thanet, for instance, we observe, that sea-weeds, and even sea-sand, are diligently collected, and attended with
great

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great advantage to the clay-land on which they are applied ; whilst on the coast of Lancashire, and in other parts of England, the same advantages are wholly neglected, where similar opportunities offer for their use. The application of peat-earth and powdered lime, prepared as a compost, were thought improper in the populous district of Bolton in the Moors, for the production of Potatoes, though this vegetable furnishes a principal part of the food of its inhabitants: but the active exertions of Mr. Horridge, of Raikes, have brought this Manure into estimation, and will probably be the means of increasing highly in value large tracts of land in that neighbourhood, at present barren and uncultivated.

Mr. Kirwan, in a valuable pamphlet published in 1796, upon the Manures most advantageously applicable to various sorts of Soils, and the causes of their beneficial effects, grounds his

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theory

theory on this simple proposition, “ that Manures are applied to supply either the defective ingredients of a soil, improve its texture, or correct its vices.”

It is certainly of the first consequence to every person concerned in agricultural improvements, to examine well the different soils, minerals, and natural products, furnished by the adjoining lands in his possession ; he will generally find that he may make from them judicious mixtures, and form such Composts as will fertilize the whole.

Under the class of Chemistry, the experiment made by order of General Bentham, shows that the principal reason of Spring-Water becoming putrid at Sea, is owing to its being stowed in wood-vessels, and that this putridity may be prevented by using vessels not likely to be acted upon by water ; he has successfully employed, for this purpose, copper tanks well tinned.

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The Rev. Mr. Cartwright, who hath on many occasions applied his ingenuity and extensive abilities to the public good, has this session favoured the Society with a communication on the subject of the Inspissated Juice of Lettuces, and of the analogy of its effects with the Opium prepared from Poppies.

Under the class of Polite Arts, Mr. Sheldrake has taken much pains to elucidate the composition of the Colours used in painting by the Ancients, and to improve the permanency and brilliancy of those employed by modern artists.

A reference to the Premiums bestowed in the Polite Arts (see page 374) will show the attention paid by the Society to different branches of them. It may be noted with great justice, that some performances were exhibited, which would have done honour to persons of high professional reputation.

The scarcity of the usual materials for making Paper has been a consider-

able impediment to the progress of literature, and called for every possible remedy.

The Paper prepared by Mr. Willmott, from the Paut-Plant, is of good quality, as may be seen by the specimen annexed to the communication.

The manufacture of Chicoree Root, as a substitute for Coffee, has lately extended rapidly over the Continent; and as this article furnishes a considerable part of the nutriment of many thousand persons in Germany, Mr. John Taylor, from personal observation and minute inquiries, has furnished an accurate Account of its culture, preparation, and use, which it is hoped will contribute to the comforts of great numbers of the inhabitants of this country.

In the line of Mechanicks, the Society have been very assiduously engaged, during the whole of their last Session. It must, however, be remembered, that the acting powers in Mechanicks are not
numerous,

numerous, and that it is difficult to make such application of these powers as to produce novelty and advantage. Many Machines laid before the Society have been rejected, owing to their want of simplicity, their not being new, or not adequate to the purposes intended. Great differences will also arise in public opinion, upon the proportion of reward due to the several Claimants, which is frequently rated too much by one person, or too little by another.

The Society have, however, earnestly endeavoured to discriminate with propriety, to do justice to merit, and to encourage every spark of genius, which may lead to real improvement. Wherever they have discovered that the machine produced, though not fully adequate to the object proposed, was likely to lead to beneficial consequences, they have inclined to give encouragement. In the Machines noted in the present Volume, each will be found entitled to
merit

merit in this point of view, and the whole, it is hoped, may lead to improvements in practice.

The Machine recommended by Mr. Sarjeant for raising Water, is of a cheap and simple construction, and answers well the purpose to which it is applied.

The advantage of the Gun-Harpoon is further confirmed, by the distance from whence the three Whales were shot by Robert Hays, which probably would not have admitted a boat to approach so near as to allow the harpooner to strike them by the hand.

From many experiments made before the Committee, with the model of the Water-Wheel from the late Mr. Besant, it appears to possess advantages sufficient to recommend its trial in places subject to Back-Water.

Very strong recommendations of Mr. Phillips's method of driving Copper-Bolts into ships, have been given, independent of the Certificates annexed to his
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his Account, and afford great reason to hope it will be of material benefit to our Naval Architecture. The principal difficulty to encounter seems to arise from the prejudice which workmen have in general for old modes of practice, however ineffectual and absurd.

Mr. Arkwright's Machine for raising Ore from Mines, possesses the advantages of supplying itself with the articles to be raised; of lifting them above the surface of the earth, and delivering them into carts attending for them: its motion is simple and regular, and the different parts of the machine are easily kept in order.

The importance of procuring from Quarries in Great Britain, Mill-Stones equal to those imported from France, is obvious. In the last Volume, an Account was given of a Quarry of Burr-Stone, discovered at Conway by the late Mr. Bowes, and one hundred pounds awarded. The present Volume contains
Mr.

Mr. Field Evans's Communication of another Quarry now worked in Montgomeryshire; it is probable that the detached Burr-Stones, found promiscuously in the soil near to this Quarry, will be equal to the French in every respect, as their best Burr-Stones are collected from similar situations.

Mr. Garnet Terry's Mill for Grinding Hard Substances, is free from the friction of the screw, which presses on the grinding cylinder in the common hand-mills, and is more easily regulated.

Mr. William Bullock's improvement of the Drawback House-Lock possesses every advantage of simplicity and effect, and deserves to be introduced into general use, as it prevents the unpleasant noise arising from the common locks, and furnishes additional security to the house.

Where only a small space of ground can be allotted for the use of a Crane, Mr. Gent's Crane may be employed: it
has

has the powers of raising a considerable weight, and projecting that weight to a distance proper for loading it.

Sir George Onesiphorus Paul, Baronet, who has taken infinite pains for a long time in the cause of humanity, and in the alleviation of distress, has strongly pointed out the necessity of the admission of Fresh Air into Hospitals and crowded Rooms, and furnished a very satisfactory Account of the mechanical modes of Ventilation, which he has put in practice with success.

Mr. De Lafon's Watch-Escapement displays an ingenious combination of mechanism, which it is hoped will furnish useful hints to persons occupied in that line.

It has long been the earnest wish of the Society that Great Britain should procure, from the produce of her Colonies, such articles as cannot be grown in England, and have therefore been hitherto obtained from foreign Governments.

ments. In the article of Indigo, this point has been for some time accomplished, as upwards of half a million sterling in value has been annually imported from our East-India settlements, for several years past, and this nation rendered independent of Spain for this valuable product.

The Paper furnished in the present Volume, upon the subject of Myrabolans from Bengal, tends to prove, that a valuable substitute for Aleppo Galls may be procured from thence.

Mr. Stephens's Communication on the Lake prepared by him from *fresh* Stick-Lack, yielding a scarlet dye resembling that from Cochineal, notices that upwards of 18,000 lbs. weight of this Lake have been received in England. The experiments made by Dr. Bancroft and others, show that it is at least equal in effect to one fourth its weight of Cochineal. The Society are informed, that great pains are taking in India to produce
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duce the best Cochineal ; and there is reason to hope that ultimately resources may be found in our Colonies, to supply our wants and increase our manufactures.

The public-spirited and disinterested manner in which this Society, in their last Session, extended their Premiums to Ireland, will doubtless meet with universal approbation, and tend greatly to encourage the patriotic endeavours of this and the Dublin Society, to promote the benefit of the united kingdom.

The very handsome manner in which the Dublin Society have expressed themselves on this occasion, evinces great probability of advantage from these united exertions. A letter from one of their Vice-Presidents, addressed to this Society, contains the following observation :—" It is with no small degree of satisfaction we behold the Premiums of the London Society opened to this country, and we hope that by
joint

joint efforts hereafter, our Premiums may produce what individually each might fail in."

The Society take the present opportunity of acknowledging their obligations for the sundry Presents they have received from different public Societies and Individuals, the particulars of which are inserted in the 380th page of the present volume.

It is a pleasure to notice, that the Society flourishes greatly under the public auspices; that nearly two hundred additional Members were elected during the last Session; and that many Candidates are now making application for admission.

It is necessary, particularly, to notice, that the grand Series of Moral and Historical Paintings, in the Great Room of the Society, have been lately greatly improved: through the whole of the last recess of the Society, Mr. Barry has been zealously engaged in bringing
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to mature perfection those matchless fruits of his talents; nor has his active genius been alone confined to the finishing what was before conceived: he has also created new objects for the *contemplation* of the Philosopher, and *admiration* of the Artist.

A valuable detail of part of these improvements will follow the present Preface; and a further account will probably be furnished to the Public at a future period.

In the last Volume of Transactions it was mentioned, that the Gold Medal of the Society had been presented to Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, for the Discovery of a Passage, over Land, from Upper Canada to the South Sea.

Agreeably to the intimation given in that Volume, his arduous and interesting journey has since been published, with Maps illustrative of his Route.

The Society have commenced the October Session with vigour and spirit; the

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ingenious of both sexes, and of every description, are invited to lay before them such objects as are new and important, addressed to their Secretary, Mr. Charles Taylor, at the Society's house in the Adelphi, London. Due attention will be paid to merit in every department of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, and it will be amply rewarded by honorary or pecuniary compensations. It is particularly requested, however, that the information sent on the several subjects, where Premiums or Bounties are expected, be full, clear, and explicit. Any gratuitous hints or communications, likely to promote the objects of the Society, will be esteemed a favour, and be properly noticed.

The Society desire it to be clearly understood, that, as a body, they are not responsible for any opinion or representation of facts, contained in the following Papers; and it is necessary to state, that they have admitted the Accounts

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counts to pass, in the language and manner of the several persons concerned. They have allowed every man to tell his tale in his own way, and have preferred such plain statements in the language sent, to alterations by the Society in a more embellished style.

The Dublin Society have lately annexed the Premiums of this Society to their publications. Though the funds and government of the two Societies are entirely distinct, yet both being actuated by that noble principle *the public good*, there is a pleasing prospect of mutual success. The efforts of both, as has been before observed, are united for the general welfare; and there is every reason to hope that such powers of exertion will produce a copious source of information and happiness to the world.

The Society have been favoured by
JAMES BARRY, Esq. with the fol-
lowing Account of the late additional
Improvements made by him in the
PICTURES in their Great Room,
which were begun in the year 1777
by that eminent Artist.

No. 36, Castle-Street, Oxford-Street,
November 26, 1801.

MR. BARRY presents his respectful
compliments to the most noble
the President, the Vice-President, and
the rest of the Society for the Encou-
ragement of Arts, &c. and having in
a letter, dated October 25, 1801, com-
municated to them his reasons at large
for the several matters of recent intro-
duction into the Pictures he has exe-
cuted in their Great Room, he now,
in compliance with the request of their
Committee of Correspondence and Pa-
pers, offers to them such explanatory

extracts therefrom, as he conceives may be of some use to the Members of the Society, and the Public at large.

Mr. Barry has exemplified his idea for the improvement of Medals and Coins, originally suggested in a letter to His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, dated July 31, 1798 (see Letter to the Dilletanti Society, p. 218, 8vo. edit.) by introducing into the Picture of the Society two models for Medals or Coins; the one, a more than profile female head, with the imperial shield of Great Britain and Ireland suspended from her shoulder; the other, a head of Alfred, the great improver and founder: the latter of which he adopted from necessity, not from choice, as he had no portrait of his present Majesty with which he was satisfied. He was particularly desirous to shelter this improvement under the wings of the Society, as he thought it probable that the noble relieve, and the security of that
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relievo exemplified in those heads, would be imitated in our coinage; and, from its obvious utility and dignity, be adopted all over Europe: and, in an object of such importance as the conservation of the portraiture and inscription, two points of the highest *desiderata*, the lead would be taken by a Society which has given rise to so many others, and has been so long remarkable for its exemplary, patriotic, and philanthropic conduct.

As the suggestions in the former letter to the Privy Council were delivered generally, without the specification of those minute particulars necessary for the execution of Mr. Barry's ideas, the person who executed the new Halfpenny and Farthing, issued shortly after, entirely misconceived Mr. Barry's idea of the proper convexity, or of the cavo bed in which it should have been raised; the spirit had evaporated in his ill-managed experiment, and there was nothing remaining but a *residuum*, a mere *caput*

mortuum of little value, by which one important part was unnecessarily sacrificed to the other, and consequently nothing desirable obtained, but rather the contrary ; as the head, which ought to be most important and principal, is flat, and without relieve, and triflingly buried in the centre of the coin, like a mite in a cheese, in order to allow space for an unnecessarily mischievous circle of large letters, which might have been so well disposed of in another manner, according to the usage of the Greeks. Nay, even in the halfpenny and farthing of George II. the head, as it should always do, importantly fills the coin, and the circular inscription is even so contrived as to be subservient to that end.

If the contrivance visible on the slightest glance at those models had been adopted, the fine heads on the Grecian and Roman coins, those of the Hamerani's on the Papal medals, or
those

those admirable ones executed by Hedlinger for Sweden, though now so liable to injury from their bold and noble relieve, as to be exposed to speedy ruin from time and usage, might preserve their most essential parts from being injured until those parts, which were least essential, had been entirely worn away. Thus, too, one of our current half-crowns of King William, or Queen Anne, had they been executed in this way, would have gone through many centuries, and from the wearing would be hardly worth a shilling, by the time the likeness and inscription, the two most essential parts, came to be injured. It is worth remarking, that those of the Grecian and Roman coins which are preserved in the collections of the curious, are not those which were in constant use, but those which, from the superstitious notions of the time, were buried while fresh with their dead, in order to satisfy the demands of a certain grisly Ferryman, or any other
that

might occur in their long and gloomy journey, or from some other accidents or calamities; all the rest which were subject to the vicissitudes of current usage being obliterated ages ago.

The better to elucidate these two models, Mr. Barry introduced an aged figure stooping over them, looking very intently on a medal, and holding in his other hand a letter or paper on which is written, “ On the gousto of Medals and Coins, and the best mode of preserving them from injuries by friction,” the identical wish expressed by the Privy Council to the Royal Academy, and which produced Mr. Barry’s letter before referred to. On the same paper is also introduced the necessary section of such a coin.

These ideas Mr. Barry had the honour of submitting, immediately after their introduction into the Picture, to the Right Honourable the Earl of Liverpool, in a letter dated July 3, 1801.

It

It may be well, before closing these remarks on Medals and Coins, to take notice here of a very curious and extraordinary particular, which occurs in those coins that are supposed to be the most ancient, and are placed amongst the *incognita*, as they are without mark or inscription of any kind, which might denote time or place, and are no less remarkable for the transcendant excellence of their style of highly-cultivated design and execution than for their extraordinary and perfect preservation, which is owing to their great relievo, and to the rising of the metal round the sides of the square coffer in which they are bedded, like the roses in the architectonic soffita's, and the hieroglyphics on the Egyptian obelisks. A few of those most extraordinary and unaccountable of all numismatic remains may be found in Dr. Hunter's truly noble collection; and, as far as they go, for a female head and its kerchief or accompaniment, they are
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but rarely (if at all) equalled even by the Greeks themselves, either Asiatic or European, or their Sicilian or Italian colonies. These Coins have all the simplicity of the Egyptian bas-relief, but without its bald uniformity, or the petite, wirey, husky, dry, cutting manner of either the Persian, Hetruscan, or Punie Coins. They exhibit a *venustas* and unrestrained easy, urbane, graceful deportment, which appears equally to have resulted from the high cultivation and amenity of the state of society where the artist found his models, as of the delicacy and ability with which those models were imitated. Herodotus (in Clio) says, “ that the Lydians were the first of all the nations we know, who introduced the art of coining gold and silver to facilitate trade, and first practised the way of retailing merchandize.” This perhaps is the reason why these Coins are supposed to be Lydian, as they are evidently prior to the Greeks,
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and appear to have been imitated in the Grecian settlements of Ionia; and yet the Greeks seem to have had no Coins in Homer's time, as he does not any where allude to them: and it is difficult to bring one'sself to believe that the remarkable perfection of these coins could have been effected by the Heraclidæ, who were settled in Sardis, admitting these Heraclidæ to have been the descendants of that Grecian Hercules, the friend of Philoctetes, so memorable in the Trojan war; and that the Greeks before and in Homer's time could have been such strangers to coinage. It is difficult also to reconcile with the sum of things, the names of Belus, and his grandson Ninus, which occur in the list of these Heraclidæ: so many difficulties start up on every side, as would induce one to look for a higher origin of these Heraclidæ, the supposed inventors of Coinage; and instead of Hercules the friend of Philoctetes, to substitute the Titannic Hercules,

cules, the friend and relation of Atlas, who flourished many ages before. This would comport better with the highly-cultivated gusto of those Coins, so completely estranged as they are from all the different modes and degrees of barbarism of the surrounding nations. They stand insulated like that mundane system of Pythagoras's importation, and cannot be ascribed to any known people, except perhaps to these Titans or Atlantides, whence so many other knowledges seem to have been derived as from a common source. But Coinage is not traceable farther back than in this supposed Lydian money, which we find in a state of complete perfection, without any of those previous stages of progressive growth which must incontrovertibly have preceded that perfection.

In order to finish entirely this part of the subject, Mr. Barry begs leave to add, from a letter read by him to the Society, October 25, 1801, that in consequence

sequence of the application for designs for a new die for their Medal, he stated his intention of introducing a modification of their former design, which he thought would fully answer their intended purpose. The more the subject matter of that design is considered, the more one must admire and respect the sterling good sense and weighty consideration of the original Founders of the Society. Nothing can be more happily imagined than the idea consisting of Britannia aided by Minerva and Mercury, the classical tutelary deities of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; and this old device, like many other good old usages, cannot be amended by any change in the substratum. It requires nothing more in its essence, and will most happily coalesce and accommodate with all the acquisitions and improvements of the most enlarged and refined culture. For this purpose, a little more of *goût* and character in the figures,

figures, is all that is necessary; enlarging them so as to fill the space with more dignity, and taking away from their individual scattered appearance by the little graces and arts of a more improved composition. And as there is always a considerable dignity and consequence attached to magnitude, which is one of the constituents of sublimity, his suggested alterations would amount simply to this—to substitute, instead of the little entire figures of Minerva and Mercury, only two large heads of those deities; and he would omit the head of Britannia altogether; and by a wreath of the shamrock, rose, and thistle, boldly rising round the edge of the Medal, playing in and out in a graceful gustoso manner, he would represent the present happily united Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with a felicity at least equal to the owl, the horse's head, or the dolphins, on the Athenian, Punic, or Sicilian coins. It may be observed by the
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way, that this mode of rim, with an enlarged noble head of His Majesty, with the relieved and incused parts gracefully and happily diversified, and the inscription well secured within, would not be unworthy of the Royal Mint.

Another matter which Mr. Barry is happy in offering to the attention of the Society, is a Naval Pillar which he has introduced in the picture of the Thames, or Triumph of Navigation. This design occurred to his mind at the time when his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, and other Noblemen and Gentlemen, associated for the purpose, advertised their idea of obtaining designs for a Naval Pillar, or other trophy, which might serve for the commemoration of great national achievements. In consequence, however, of the dark and mysterious opposition which had so long followed him, and of which he has had such frequent reason to complain, Mr. Barry laid aside the design till its con-

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nexion,

nexion with the subject of this picture of the Thames, pressed upon him with accumulated and irresistible force ; and finding nothing had been done, which would answer the intended purpose, to his satisfaction, he rolled the scaffold to the picture, and began such a trophy of a mausoleum, observatory, or lighthouse, as is no where else in existence, and he believes never had existence before. Nothing can have more simplicity and *naïveté* than the idea of it as a totality ; the British Tars so well and obviously typified by the naval Gods, the Tritons, upon sea-horses, dashing up the sides of a rock, upon the top of which they erect this trophy to the first Naval Power.

Mr. Barry cannot help pausing to notice the dark designs of interested individuals against his honour, his interest, and his peace ; and especially as they have been so managed as to influence the mind of his Sovereign. Amongst
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other reports equally unfounded, it has been generally said that His Majesty had been induced to believe that Mr. Barry had written the Supplement to Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, where, page 825, the King is grossly abused. This, had he been allowed the opportunity, he could then, as he does now, have flatly contradicted; and have then affirmed, as he does now, that he had never any part or concern in the writing or devising that Supplement; and that, though his name was impudently and fraudulently affixed to it, yet that he had no knowledge whatever of any such matter, until, in common with the rest of his Majesty's subjects, he saw it, after its publication, with a garbled portion of his Letter to the Dilettanti bound up along with it.— This justification he offered in a Letter addressed to His Majesty, and afterwards inserted in the Morning Post of December 3, 1799. Whether it ever

was laid before His Majesty or not, Mr. Barry is uncertain; but a matter so flagitiously fraudulent he cannot resist every opportunity of denying.

In the year 1792, it appeared that Mr. Barry had occasion to offer another (though much more limited) scheme for a national Mausoleum (see page 28, Letter to the Dilettanti), where the subjects sculptured in the round and in basso-relievo, being all near the eye, afforded to the spectator every opportunity of considering them with convenience, pleasure, and utility, the want of which was so deeply regretted by all who had seen the fine column at Rome, erected to commemorate the victories of Trajan; the greatest part of these fine sculptures being to every purpose of desirable inspection, as much lost and buried in the air, as if they had been so many feet under ground; and the beautiful labour bestowed upon them could never be appreciated but in the
plaster

have been utterly unable to divine the utility adequate to such expensive constructions. It may be disputed, whether the Chaldaic Temple of Belus and the tower within it, was of equal antiquity with the Pyramids in Egypt; but, according to the account in Herodotus, this Chaldaic tower was by much a more artist-like performance, and from what will appear below, more appositely convertible to various purposes of the most interesting utility. This Babylonian tower consisted of square bodies placed one on the other. The first body or platform was (to use the words of Herodotus) of one stadium in height, and in length and breadth of the same measure. On this tower another is built, and a third upon that, till they make up the number of eight. The ascent to these is by a circular way carried round the outside of the building to the highest part. We are enabled to form a clear conception of the circular ascent round the several

square stories of this building in Chaldea, by adverting to the account published by the Rev. Father Clavigero, of the ancient pyramidal temples in Mexico and the country about it, which appear to have been constructed with more genius than those of Egypt, and to the great surprise of all who have concerned themselves in matters of antiquity, are found to be constructed after identically the same mode with this of Chaldea, consisting of a certain number of stories, round each of which their processions marched, ascending by a separate flight of steps at the same angle of each.

One of these Mexican temples consisted of nine stories or platforms ; others were of a single body, in the form of a pyramid, with a stair-case. The height of the Pyramid of Cholula was, by Clavigero's account, upwards of 500 feet. " One may ascend (says he) to the top by a path made in a spiral direction round the pyramid, and I went
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up on horseback in 1744." But the architecture of the great temples was for the most part the same with that of the great temple of Mexico, which though of a great height, so as to afford a view of the lake, the cities around, and a great part of the valley of Mexico, and affirmed by eye-witnesses to be the finest prospect in the world—yet, notwithstanding this great height, consisted but of five bodies or stories, perhaps in order to allow space for the plain or upper area on the fifth body, which was about forty-three perches long and thirty broad, upon which they performed their sacrifices in the view of such an immense concourse of people as this great altitude would afford towards their becoming participants in what was going forward. Nothing architectural could have been more ingeniously contrived to exhibit with all conceivable splendor, not only the spectacle on the platform, but also the processional part, moving
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on all sides in every plain as it ascended. But when one reflects that the victims were human, and that 72,344 of them were sacrificed on this platform, in one festival of four days continuance, at the dedication of this temple, it is not to be wondered that the Spaniards demolished, and suffered not a stone of it to remain standing. And yet it had been better, perhaps, to have adopted a different conduct, and to have suffered the temple to remain; and, in lieu of the former horrid butchery, to have performed, in the presence of this misguided people, their own christian, unbloody sacrifice, which, from its relation to the oblation at Calvary of that lamb which was slain from the beginning, had happily atoned for all, and precluded the necessity of any other sacrifice. Such a substitution would there have been evangelical indeed; as almost all over that part of the western hemisphere, islands, and continent, every man had

a chance of becoming an ill-fated prisoner, and consequently one in the dreadful list of victims. But the time presses, and will not admit of much excursion, however agreeable, or even perhaps necessary, towards the just appreciation of certain parts of the subject in hand. Let so much then suffice, as it will sufficiently authorise the observation, that the British Pillar, in the picture of the Thames, possesses every advantage enjoyed in those famed pyramidal, obeliscal, or columnal fabrications of Egypt, Chaldea, Rome, or America, with advantages peculiar to itself, of still higher value than all that it may have in common with those celebrated vestiges of antiquity. This British Naval Pillar, Mausoleum, Observatory, Light-house, or whatever it may be called, as they are all united in the same structure, which, by a very legitimate flight of classical imagination, these Tritons, or sea-gods, have erected to
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the first Naval Power, will admit of whatever advantages may be obtained from altitude ; and, if the settling of snow would permit, it may be raised high enough to see (as Saussure did) the moon and constellations moving in a jet black vault at noon day ; whilst the easy unembarrassed road all the way up, might feast the eye, the mind, and the heart, with all desirable national, ethical, or other exemplary useful information. Although this building is at too great a distance in the picture to afford accurate inspection of detailed particulars, yet it is near enough for a general view, as is sufficiently apparent from the group of figures on the basement, looking at one of the basso-relievo's, which, by the fleet of ships and the distant pyramids, might represent the brave Nelson's victory at the Nile ; whilst some more youthful characters appear eagerly attentive to what is said with so much energy, as would appear
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by the action and stretched-out hands of the speaker. At the end of the bridge which connects this building with the chalky shore, is a triumphal arch, through which processions might pass ; and, at some distance, under the bridge is seen a more humble, though not less endearing prospect of a village church steeple and fishing-boats, with the men pulling in their nets. A seventy-four gun ship is to windward of the Naval Pillar, stretching out to sea, and a fleet just appearing in the offing.

In the fifth picture, viz. that of the Society, Mr. Barry has also introduced a Tea-kitchen, or Vase for boiling water, which he offers as an improvement on those in general use, which in many respects have been so vulgarly and ill contrived, that, much as he loves tea, yet he can never see these complicated, tasteless urns or vases without disgust, resting, as they generally do, on a sort of pedestals with additional feet to them,
handles

handles unaccounted for, but stuck on merely for the purpose; and the water issuing from an odious, insulated, defenceless, feeble conveyance, stuck in like a spigot in a barrel. In lieu of all this tasteless complicated vulgarity, the vase, in the picture of the Society, is of the simplest and least complicated kind; and if any idea results from its general appearance, it is the sublime suggestion of the Grecian cosmogony, the primæval egg of ancient mother Night, suspended between two mysterious serpents, the principle of regenerating vitality, the convolutions of whose bodies, flung in the air, naturally furnish the handles, and their tails afford the stable circular foot or basis on which the whole rests; whilst the passage for the water of life within, is controuled by the little Psyche or button in the centre, where the heads of those serpents meet at bottom. Perhaps there is nothing in the immense collection of antique vases

in Passeri, or Sir William Hamilton, so classical and completely Grecian as this idea, whilst it is certain that nothing can be more completely adapted to every purpose of security and utility.

There are also some other particulars, of recent introduction, in this picture of the Society, as well as in that of the Elysium ; but whatever observations may occur on them will be better reserved for some other time, as this letter is getting too long.